

Message Text

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ORIGIN IO-11

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EUR-12 /024 R

66011

DRAFTED BY IO/UNP:RGLONG:B

APPROVED BY IO/SA:TALYNCH

EUR/NE:APINKNEY

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P 130111Z JAN 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY 6741

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 006730

FOL RPT STATE 006730 ACTION REYKJAVIK NATO

INFO LONDON USLOSACLANT COMICEDEFOR DTD 10 JAN.

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 006730

E.O9 11652: GDS

TAGS: NATO NAC IC UK EFIS PFOR

SUBJECT: ICELAND REQUEST FOR SPECIAL NAC MEETING

REF: USNATO 104

MILITARY ADES HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE

1. ALTHOUGH WE WOULD WISH THAT THE GOVERNMENTS OF ICELAND AND THE UK COULD SETTLE THE FISHERIES DISPUTE NOW RAGING BETWEEN THEM BILATERALLY, WE MUCH PREFER THAT THE ICELANDERS BRING THEIR CASE TO NATO THAN TO THE UN WHERE THE POTENTIAL FOR MISCHIEF IS WELL KNOWN. WE THEREFORE HOPE THAT MONDAY'S NAC SESSION CAN BE SEEN BY THE GOI AND THEREFORE BY THE POPULATION IN ICELAND, AS A SINCERE EFFORT BY NATO TO UNDERSTAND THE SITUATION. UNFORTUNATELY, AS YOU RIGHTLY PINT OUT, THE ICELANDERS SEEK NOT JUST A FORUM FOR THE PRESENTATION OF THEIR POINT OF VIEW, BUT ALSO ACTUAL SUPPORT

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FOR THEIR POSITION FROM NATO OR SOME OF ITS MEMBERS. THIS

IS SOMETHING THAT FOR MANY REASONS NEITHER WE NOR NATO CAN GIVE.

2. WE AGREE THAT IN THE NATO FORUM, THE UNITED STATES CANNOT BE SILENT AND WE APPROVE OF THE APPROACH YOU OUTLINED IN PARA 7 REFTEL. YOUR STATEMENT IN THE NAC SHOULD GIVE THE GOVERNMENTS OF ICELAND AND THE UK THE DEFINITE UNDERSTANDING OF THE SERIOUSNESS WITH WHICH WE VIEW THE SITUATION, THE CLEAR PICTURE THAT THE UNITED STATES CANNOT TAKE SIDES ON THE SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES INVOLVED, AND THE ASSURANCE THAT WE ARE WATCHING THE SITUATION CAREFULLY. IN ADDITION, YOU SHOULD MAKE CLEAR THAT WE ARE PLEASED THAT THE GOI HAS BROUGHT THE MATTER TO NATO, POINTING OUT THAT NATO IS THE BEST FORUM AVAILABLE FOR CONSIDERATION OF A DISPUTE BETWEEN TWO ALLIES. IN ORDER TO MAKE OPTIMUM USE OF THE NATO FORUM YOU SHOULD URGE THE TWO ALLIES TO GIVE SYG MEDIATION ROLE A FAIR CHANCE TO ADVANCE THE POSSIBILITIES FOR A JUST AND EQUITABLE SETTLEMENT, INDICATING THAT WE STRONGLY SUPPORT SUCH A ROLE FOR LUNS.

3. YOU SHOULD ALSO CONVEY PRIVATELY TO LUNS THAT WE HOPE HE CAN MEDIATE BETWEEN THE TWO SIDES IN THIS DISPUTE. SHOULD HE DECIDE TO GO TO REYKJAVIK TO PURSUE A MEDIATION ROLE, YOU SHOULD SUGGEST THAT HE ATTEMPT TO OBTAIN SOME ASSURANCE FROM BOTH UK AND ICELAND THAT THEY WILL TRY TO AVOID INCIDENTS WHICH COULD COMPLICATE HIS MISSION.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLICIES, ALLIANCE, DISPUTE SETTLEMENT, FISHING DISPUTES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 JAN 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MartinML
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE006730
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: RGLONG:B
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760011-0370
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760162/aaaaccur.tel
Line Count: 91
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN IO
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MartinML
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <07 APR 2004 by CollinP0>; APPROVED <28 JUL 2004 by MartinML>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ICELAND REQUEST FOR SPECIAL NAC MEETING
TAGS: EFIS, PFOR, IC, UK, US, NATO, NAC
To: USUN NEW YORK
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006